

Whangarei District Council District Living Committee meeting - 9th November 2011

[LINK to appropriate Agenda](#)

Chair Cr Shelley Deeming welcomes all with a good morning, to all those present at 1030hrs.

Apologies were received for Mayor Morris Cutforth and Cr Merv Williams.

It was still 1030hrs. and Item No. 1 Minutes of a Meeting of the Environment Committee meeting held 12 October 2011- (Page1) these were accepted with no discussion taking place.

With the time still at 1031 hrs it was on to Item No. 2 the Environment Group Monthly Report – October 2011 (Page 3)

Group Manager District Living, Paul Dell firstly welcomed new staff member Nick Karlovsky, Urban Design Specialist to their team. *Let's hope his ideas are more frugal on the ratepayer's pockets and not 'pie in the sky' expensive projects for some people own agendas or 'one off' projects.*

Cr Shelley Deeming then asked Paul Dell to go through the report answering questions page by page. *Yeah right, this guy likes to hear his own voice; I'm convinced he was christened with a gramophone needle.* Mr Dell continued, *like a pumped up bantam*, displaying a certificate that had been presented to the Whangarei District Council by the RWC (Rugby World Cup) organisers, for their effort during the event, adding it was to be framed. *Well we have all been framed; that bit of paper has cost the ratepayers of Whangarei and Northland possibly more or less than about \$27 million. All the projects that were rushed through for the 2 games of footy that Whangarei hosted; the stadium, Porowhini Avenue extension and bridge, Victoria Bridge umbrella stand, the hub at the Town Basin (minus the intercity buses.....another story), rushed through beautification program, equestrian course Reyburn Lane(as per Cr Greg Martin opinion), relocation of parking to railway station (only done for rugby parking), walkway extension etc.etc. I could go on with other things that people had commented on to me. So the \$27m, is it an exaggeration?*

Cr Deeming thanked the staff for all their hard work as she thought Paul had skipped over it. *Oh, wasn't it all about Paul?* She also added that the Food premises grading (page 19 -20) were great news to the industry. *Some exceptionally good higher standards being achieved thanks to Grant Couchman and his team; you can go out to restaurants etc, see the certificates and dine in confidence. Grant, a lot has improved in this area by the teams vigilance, Good work.*

Cr Aaron Edwards made comment regards the Graffiti Tag removal was working well. (page27)

It was still 1039hrs. and Item No. 3 Resource Consents and Complaints Monitoring Report 2010/2011 (Page29)

Group Manager District Living, Paul Dell claimed there were no surprises in the resource consent area. Council received about 205 complaints per week; Animals and Noise complaints equated to approx 80% (drinking, noise and stereos), By law infringements approx 5% - 10%, Resource Management Act (RMA) infringements >5% and Health infringements approx 2%.

Cr Brian McLachlan questioned the noise generated last weekend (Nov 5th) from fireworks.

Paul Dell explained that was for a special event and of short duration. *I'll remember that when I celebrate my 21st.....again.*

Cr John Williamson commended the staff on the quality of the report. *He's another that likes to hear his own voice; does he practice in front of the mirror, 'feet actions' and all?*

With the time now at 1044hrs it was on to Item No. 4 Rural Development Strategy – Community Consultation Feedback Report (page 31)

Cr Aaron Edwards moved the motion and Cr John Williamson seconded it.

Paul Dell gave an overview and made comment on the 'Feedback' on page 32. *Some interesting feed back here.* He added there were no surprises in the results.

Cr Sharon Morgan wished to reiterate the comments from Paul and also wanted to thank the staff who gave many hours to this study. It was well received with lots of questions. She informed that personally she had to initiate these meetings encouraging people to attend.

Cr John Williamson commented that staff had done a great job but he had struggled to find any reference to genetic modification anywhere in this report.

Team Leader District Plan, Nick Williamson claimed there were no comments on GM and informed that the RPS (Regional Policy Statement) will be taken in with the DP (District Plan)

Cr Phil Halse had a query in regards 'indigenous vegetation on private land' on page 46. Clarification was needed and he was not happy with some of the wording.

Paul Dell added that "it was important that we look at the process".

Cr Phil Halse commented "that they look at both sides of the situation". He continued "Can't see any of my views in there". *Don't you understand Phil, those ideas, if they are good ones, will be kept a little while for you to forget and will then get represented as Pauls ideas?*

That's it, all over till the next episode, with Cr Shelley Deeming calling the meeting to a close at 1055 hours and thanking all for attending.